

a control amount defined as an amount of an acetylated peptide substrate detected in an absence of the test compound, and

(d) selecting the compound associated with an increase or decrease in the amount of the acetylated peptide substrate as compared to the control amount.

23. A kit for the screening method of claim 16, comprising an anti-acetylated antibody.

REMARKS

Claims 16 and 23 have been amended as a matter of formality. No new matter has been added by virtue of those amendments; support therefor can be found throughout the specification and in the original claims.

For instance, claim 16 has been amended in response to certain statements made in the Advisory Action concerning Applicants' earlier arguments. In particular, Applicants' earlier response stated that the antibodies of the present invention bind to the acetylated form of the peptide substrate without "significantly" recognizing the unacetylated form, which statement was allegedly inconsistent with the claims. Thus, the within amendment seeks to clarify and further define the invention; that is, the anti-acetylated peptide antibody does not recognize *to any appreciable degree* the peptide substrate in its unacetylated form. Such amendment is amply supported in the specification and in the original claims (see also Example 1, in particular at page 26, line 31 to page 27, line 11, and Figs. 5 to 8). Additionally, claim 23 has been amended merely to correct an errant dependency, thus obviating an earlier objection.

It is believed the amendments may be properly entered at this time, i.e. after final rejection, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.116, because the amendments do not require a new search or raise any new issues, and they reduce issues for appeal. Entry of the amendments at this time is earnestly solicited.

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